



## MAINE FARMER

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

THE WHEAT CROP AND THE WHEAT MIDGE.

The few wheat fields that we have seen in this section of Maine look extremely well thus far. They are all of the spring wheat variety, and were sown rather late. Whether they are destined to be all devoured by the "midge" or "weevil," as it is called, will soon be determined. Hitherto this apparently insignificant insect has baffled all the art and skill of the farmer, and come off triumphantly. The variations in the temperature and moisture, and other conditions of the seasons have had more or less effect upon it. As the weather has been warm and pleasant for the last three or four weeks, and therefore favorable for the development of the crystals in its progress of changing to the perfect, or fly state, it would not be surprising if there should be an abundance of them in our wheat fields this season; and if so, will, as in years past, do immense mischief.

They have in a comparative sense fairly driven our farmers from the field, and millions and millions of dollars would not repair the damage they have hitherto done or make good the losses they have occasioned in Maine alone. Thirty years ago, wheat was among the surest and easiest crops our farmers could raise. Smut and rust were the only enemies this crop had to encounter. The first was prevented by thoroughly cleansing the seed before sowing it, and the latter by sowing early.

In some former numbers of our paper we gave most of the material facts which have been discovered in regard to the natural history of this scourge to the wheat grower, accompanied with engravings illustrative of its different stages of growth. As far as the mere history or facts of the several changes the midge undergoes, from the egg to the fly state, the researches of those who have undertaken it have been pretty thorough. The sum of it is, that the parent fly lays the egg into the bottom of the wheat blossom—that it there hatches a small worm, or maggot, about the time the kernel of the wheat gets into the milk state—that this worm pumps out the milk and pieces of the kernel for its food, and thereby prevents its filling and maturing—that the worm, having got its growth, either descends to the earth and forms a cyst, or sometimes remains in the chaff of the wheat and rolls itself up into a cystic state—that it remains in this cystic state in the ground or in and among the chaff and straw of the wheat, until the succeeding season, when it comes out in the fly state and commences depositing its eggs in the blossoming wheat as heretofore. Some say, however, that the worm, or maggot, does not form the cysts or "pupa," as it is called, until the June following, but remains in a dormant condition until then. Whether it does or does not, is not very material to the question of its ravages and the prevention of them. It has been found, we believe, to be the case that they are much more abundant in a field of wheat sown on ground occupied by wheat the year previous.

We have never heard of any experiments tried upon the soil with a view of destroying the dormant worm, or cysts, while it is in the earth, and hardly know what course could be pursued which would destroy or dislodge them from their winter quarters. If it were certain that they bury themselves not more than an inch in depth, it is probable that burning the surface over which they are deposited, or in any other way, but this would incur heavy expense in many cases, and in some locations be almost impossible.

With the exception of studying the changes which this insect undergoes and giving a technical description of its external appearance and its distinctive marks, little has been done. More time and research are required in regard to it, in order to enable us to war against it with more success than has been hitherto had.

We ought to know how low a temperature the worm, or cysts, can undergo and live. We ought to know for a certainty whether the worm, or maggot, can live on any other substances than the pieces of unripe grain; or, in other words, whether the instincts of the parent fly direct it to deposit its eggs in any other plant than grain. Some contend that it is found in clover and some other plants, while others say that the grain worm is entirely different. We ought to know, whether the parent fly is capable of long extended flights or whether it is confined to the immediate neighborhood of its birth. In short, we ought to know many more of its manners and customs, its likes and dislikes than we now do before we can be prepared to ward or prevent its attacks successfully. It is a battle with him for bread, and hitherto "midge" has beaten us.

## STAND FOR TRAILING PLANTS.

A beautiful flower stand for the growth of trailing plants in rooms, can be made in the following manner:—Take a piece of wood which may be turned or carved to make it ornamental, (or it may have the bark on and varnished, or covered over by pasting on mosses and lichens). Place it upright and let it extend three tiers of wire, bent somewhat like the arms of a chandelier, from each of which are suspended a tolerably large conical shell filled with earth, in which flowers are planted. The uppermost tier of arms must be quite short, and may be five in number. The next tier below may be longer as to extend beyond the upper one, while the lowest one must be still longer. The shells may be attached or hung on by small copper wires, which may be passed around each shell. It will thus not be necessary to drill holes in the shells. Wooden arms will answer instead of the wires.

## WOOL.

Mr. Hiram Hodson of Bethel, sheared his season from ten sheep, his entire flock, 623 lbs. of wool; also raised 15 lambs from the same sheep.

## SHEEP POISONED BY LOW LAUREL.

A subscriber informs us that he, last spring, lost two or three sheep by poisoning from eating the leaves of an evergreen shrub, called "lamb kill" or "low laurel," and enquires for the best remedy in such cases.

The "lamb kill" or low laurel, is an evergreen shrub which grows on the seaboard, and in some places of the interior of New England. It is called by botanists, *Kalmia angustifolia*. In the winter and spring of the year, sheep and lambs sometimes eat its leaves and thereby become poisoned. The symptoms of the disease are, a heavy drooping appearance—grating the teeth and a continued gulping up or vomiting a greenish fluid which they swallow down again. The first thing to be done in such cases, is to fix a gag in the mouth of the sheep, so as to keep its mouth open and prevent its swallowing the fluid which rises. This will often times be sufficient to cure, but it is not best to trust to this alone. Pour down the sheep some alkaline liquid, such as salutaris dissolved, or a diluted solution of ammonia, or a weak lye made by throwing ashes into warm water and draining off. The fluid thrown off the stomach of the sheep, in consequence of the action of the laurel leaves eaten, seems to be of an acid character, and alkalies, if timely administered, act as a neutralizer to it. Soap suds would probably be good to administer, if no other preparation could be obtained.

Since the above was written we have met with the following from the "Virginia Farm Journal":—"Give them two tablespoonful of weak lye, and it will raise them in fifteen minutes after giving. One morning I found fifteen or twenty sheep poisoned by eating ivy the day before. Some of them, when found, were flat on their sides, others frothed at the mouth, grating their teeth, and staggered about badly, from the effects of the ivy (laurel). . . . After I had lost three out of six that could not hold up their heads, and appeared lifeless, one of my neighbors recommended weak lye as a cure; it was given them, and in ten minutes one of the sheep ate rowen, and the whole were cured."

## HOME MADE ORNAMENTALS.

We like the ideas which a lady subscriber of the "Gardener's Monthly" gives of making at home, many conveniences of the ornamental kind by a new adaptation of things which may have been used for other and more necessary purposes. For instance, she gets up a neat flower stand or bouquet holder, by selecting six or eight china or common porcelain cups, of different sizes. She commences with the largest sized coffee cup, or small bowl, and ends with the smallest of a child's tea set. Then she places under the bottom of each of them, a circular piece of wood, such as may be sawn off from the end of a round stick, for instance, to separate the cups so as to leave a space for putting the flowers into. It is not necessary that the cups should be one uniform shape, as none but the lowest will show when the flowers are arranged in it. The lower cup should be mounted on a wooden case with a circular rim around the upper edge of it to hold the cup firmly.

Another decoration which she gets up from homestead materials, is a shade for a lamp, ornamented with dried flowers. This is made of good stiff drawing paper, not so thick as to make it opaque. The pattern of the shade can be taken from an old one or by experimenting and cutting until you get one to suit you; you should select, when in bloom, such flowers as preserve their color, and place them between blotting or some porous paper with a heavy weight on them, taking care to change the paper every day or two, until they are perfectly dry, to prevent their moulding. Tansies, Larkspurs, Geraniums, Verbenas, Convolvulus and other high colored flowers with their petals and with little moisture in them, are best for this purpose. After the flowers are properly dried (in doing which they should be kept very smooth), they should be gummed or glued on the outside of the shade, and as a further protection against injury by handling, it is better to cover the outside with tartan muslin or gauze, but this is not indispensable.

For the Maine Farmer.

## MANURES.

Mr. Editor:—In all agricultural countries, the manure heap is the means from which the farmer must draw his wealth. Most all countries have some natural deposits of fertilizers. The Southern and Middle States have their marl and lime. Gypsum, or plaster of Paris, is found in many of the States. In one of the provinces of Spain there is a natural deposit of phosphate of lime, and from the analysis that has been made of it, is proved to be equal to bone dust; but, unfortunately, it lies at such a distance from the sea that for exportation it is quite valueless. When Spain shall have the network of railroads that exists in England, it will no doubt become an article of great value. Maine has a larger supply of the best of materials for the making of manures than almost any other State in the Union—in her peat, turf and musk bogs—the seaweed upon the shores of her innumerable inlets, her mud-flats and clam-flats. All these cost nothing but the labor of man with his team, and that at a season of the year when their labor upon the farm is otherwise of but little value. For their manufacture into the most valuable of manures, the labor of the hog is that only wanted. That the farmers of Maine do not pay more attention to the raising of so valuable an animal, is passing strange. He is a self-sustaining animal—will pay for his board by his labor, if suitably supplied with material; and, in the opinion of many intelligent farmers, the manure taken from his pen is of equal value to the pork; and when kept under the byre, upon the droppings of the cattle and the absorbents that should be there, there can be no question as to that opinion. To produce so desirable a result, it is of much importance that a better breed of hogs should be kept than has generally been heretofore. Of all the various breeds or kinds of swine that have been kept in the State, from the long shaggy-headed, slab-sided hog to the small chubby and greasy Suffolk, the Chester County swine are the ones best adapted to the use of the farmer—some few of which have, the past season, been introduced into the State by that skill-

ful and enterprising farmer of Foxcroft, Calvin Chamberlain, Esq. They have the advantage of early maturity; are like the best Suffolks, always in good case, and ready for the knife if any accident should befall them; grow rapidly and fatten easily, and if well kept until from a year to eighteen months old, will weigh from four to five or six hundred pounds. It is understood that there is one pair of the Chester County swine in Augusta.

AGRICOLA.

July 25th, 1859.

## CROPS IN OXFORD COUNTY.

Mr. Editor:—The white clover has made an unusual appearance in many old fields, and will require a little earlier cutting than herds grass and red top. The unexpected appearance of the white clover will puzzle the wisest heads to account for the cause; and scientific men, who of course must know everything, and how everything is produced, will talk much unintelligible jargon about the past dry seasons bringing the moisture from below, and the minerals having affinities for clover seed lying dormant in the ground, &c., &c.—they making a lively fancy pass for knowledge and science. Many writers in agricultural papers, on the subject of the best time for mowing, speak confidently of cutting grass when in the bloom and before the seed is grown. We cannot agree with them. Long observation has convinced the experienced farmer that he can get most substance and value in hay cut when the seed is fully formed, but not so ripe as to fall out in handling. The seed itself affords a good proportion of provender, and the stalk and leaf have not lost much of their substance. Some good farmers say the hay is heartier and spends better, and stock do as well upon it as upon hay cut earlier. They say that hay cut before the seed has grown, shrinks and has not the weight in it; that though stock eat it freely, it keeps them too loose, is flashy, like second crop, and requires a large quantity to keep stock in good condition. This is the opinion of my father, who has a very large farm under his control, and has had over forty years' experience in farming successfully and in cutting hay and raising stock for market. In hay-making, his object was to get a marketable article and the greatest weight; and this he could accomplish best by letting his grass stand until the seed was full. But he would not cure, or cure his hay, not simply to let it lie in the sun until it was dry. He would keep it stirring after it was mowed, and as it wilted and dried, would rake it together to keep the sun from burning it, and before night put it into cocks. I hear the remark frequently, that by using salt, hay may be housed before it is thoroughly made. I believe this to be a great error, unless there is salt enough used to pickle and spoil it. It is understood to be a well settled fact, that a slight quantity of salt hastens decomposition instead of preventing it. I presume that hay cut on salt marshes requires to be well as well as upland hay, and if green when stored, will spoil, notwithstanding it has more salt on it than anybody uses on the upland hay. In cutting clover, very little is gained by letting it stand until the seed is ripe; there is but little seed in the first crop—indeed, none to any appreciable amount. Perhaps we can get as much weight and value from a clover field by cutting in when it is in full bloom as at any other time. It requires much time and care in making and curing well. Many people spoil it by housing it before properly made, and being musty and dusty it becomes unwholesome, especially for horses. Well made and preserved, clover makes good food for horses and any kind of stock, though not quite hearty enough, by reason of its greenness, for animals that work, without a good allowance of provender.

The probable yield of the hay crop will be more than an average. Grain of all kinds looks finely. Corn has suffered the most in consequence of the late frosts and cold weather, but with a month of the present weather corn will present a different appearance and farmers yet see a good crop. Apples and plums promise but little. Cherries "few and far between." Berries promising. Potatoes look well.

"WATERPOOT MOUNTAIN" FARM.

Bethel, July 14, 1859.

## PETTICOATS ON THE STAIRS.

Getting up and down stairs by full dressed ladies, is not always the easiest thing in the world they are expected to do, and to do it gracefully and without inconvenience, requires the exercise of ingenuity and some regard to well established mechanical laws and principles. A lady who sometimes writes for the newspapers, has taken up the subject of hoops, and getting up and down stairs, and tenders to her sisters some sensible suggestions. She says: "The hoops should be not nearer together, say two or three inches apart, and come to within an inch or two of the feet or bottom of the dress. A word about the management of dresses. In the first place, in going up stairs you need only lift the front of your dress, and in descending, the back part of your skirts. The front part of your dress can by no effort be soiled in descending, neither can the back part by ascending a pair of stairs. Do, therefore, have a reform in this, to my mind, immodest habit you have heedlessly gotten into, of dragging your dress behind in going down stairs, and lifting it up in front instead."

The Albany Journal, in commenting upon these remarks, says, whenever a concert has been given at the principal hall in that city, it is always noticed that on the following morning the stairs are much cleaner than usual, having been thoroughly swept by the skirts of the ladies in retiring from the hall. In descending the stairs, the dresses are partially raised in front, while the back, which should be raised, is left to drag upon the stairs. The dresses dragging upon the stairs are sometimes stepped upon by those following, and accidents thus occur. If the ladies will but elevate their skirts slightly in front when going up stairs, and do the reverse in descending, they will have no difficulty, no danger, and preserve their garments free from injury.

## BIG CATTLE.

Mr. Abel Chandler of Bethel, owns a four year old heifer, that dropped a calf July 1st, which, when three days old, weighed 130 lbs.

## HARVESTING THE GRAIN CROP.

In making a tour of two or three hundred miles last summer, while our farmers were harvesting their crop of small grains, we became convinced that much negligence and waste still prevail, even with some who mean to be tidy and economical farmers.

In harvesting these grains we suppose the first important consideration to be, the time of cutting. When is the proper time to cut wheat, barley and oats? Some persons do not commence until the leaves on the stem are dead, and the berry or kernel is so far advanced as to be considerably dry. Under this practice there must be considerable loss experienced in both grain and straw. At this advanced stage the head has become dry, and the little scales which encircle and hold the grain are separated from it, so that at every touch it shatters out and is lost. The process has also gone too far to permit the grain to produce as much flour and nutriment as it would if the harvesting were done at an earlier day.

As wheat or barley approaches maturity, the careful observer will notice that the stem, immediately below the head of grain, shrivels, and has the appearance of having become partially dry. When this appearance has covered about six inches of the stem immediately below the head, we have been in the habit of cutting these grains; the kernel is then glazed and just going out of the milky state. "If not reaped until the straw is wholly yellow, the grain will be more than ripe, as the ear generally, except in late seasons, ripens before the entire of the straw; and it is observable that the first reaped usually affords the heaviest and fairest sample."

Careful observation will show that the indications of ripeness in wheat are few and simple. When the straw exhibits a bright golden color from the bottom of the stem nearly to the ear, or when the ear begins to bend gently, the grain may be cut. But as the whole crop will not be equally ripe at the same time—if, on walking through the field, and selecting the greenest heads, the kernels can be separated from the chaff when rubbed through the hands, it is a sure sign that the grain is then out of its milky state, and may be cut with safety; for although the straw may be green to some distance downwards from the ear, yet if it be quite yellow near the bottom upwards, the grain then wants no further nourishment from the earth, and, if properly harvested, it will not shrink. These tokens will be found to sufficiently indicate the ripeness of wheat, barley and oats; but that of rye arises from the straw losing some of its golden hue, and becoming paler. The usual practice in England is to cut down all grain before it is quite ripe, and to leave it in shocks until the grain is perfectly matured and hardened."

This extract, which we take from an excellent English work, does not precisely agree with our remarks in relation to the appearance of the stem, as the latter, we have often observed, may appear nearly dry for a few inches immediately below the ear, while the rest of the stem is quite green. But the suggestions we have quoted are valuable, and will aid many cultivators in deciding at what particular moment to cut their grains.

Another loss in this harvest is occasioned by the careless manner in which grain is gathered and tied up, being brought into bundles uneven at the ends and of irregular size, so that in the shocking and after-handling, the bundles are burst, and the ears broken off. The shocking, or shocking, is often so badly done that they do not shed the rain, or protect the bundles from dew, and are upset, and scattered by the wind. They are often left uncovered, so that in wet weather, as was the case at the last harvest, the loss must be considerable in the quantity of grain, and more still by a depreciation of its quality. We were gratified to notice in our ramble last summer that in some districts, caps, or coverings of cotton cloth, were used on stacks of grain in the field. It had been raining for three days—a part of the time heavily—and yet most of the stacks so covered had received no damage whatsoever—all their upper portions being entirely dry. We thought that about three farms out of four along a range of towns in south-eastern New Hampshire, were using these coverings. There can be little doubt but that the saving by their use in a single season like the past, nearly paid their cost.

It is a great loss to hurry over, or to perform indifferently, the labor of harvesting, because then the crop has matured, and only needs one step more to return to the cultivator its profit. The gathering in, and stowing away in the barn, should be conducted with great care, to prevent waste of grain, to protect it from vermin, and to give it proper ventilation, so that it shall not heat and start the germ of the seed.—N. E. Farmer.

## THE YELLOW BIRD.

At a recent meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, Dr. Brewer read a paper on the common yellow bird. Attention was called to its ingenuity in avoiding the necessity, either of abandoning its nest, or of hatching the egg which the crow-blackbird sometimes deposits there. When this dilemma occurs, the yellow bird, unable to throw out the extra egg, covers it up together with her own, and builds another story to the nest, on the floor of which she lays a new set of eggs, and this she has been known to do even to the third nest making. One person mentioned having found three of these two-story nests in a single season in this State, Doctor B. thinks that the yellow bird never hatches the black-bird's egg, sacrificing her own rather than hatch a stranger which would destroy her offspring.

## BAG UP THE FUR.

At this season of the year, insects of various kinds will be likely to make depredations upon furs which are laid by. An exchange recommends, as the best preventive of their mischief, to first shake and beat the furs thoroughly to dislodge any insects that may be upon them, and then to tie them up tightly in a linen or cotton bag. The parent insect cannot then get to them to deposit its eggs. This is a cheap and simple mode and more effectual than wrapping them up loosely with camphor or tobacco, which is by no means sure to keep them off.

## THE WOOD THRUSHES.

BY REV. H. C. LEONARD.

It was the first of May,  
A sweet, cool, calm, bright day,  
Like that of Herbert's lay:—  
A holy First of May.

The Sabbath bells had rung;  
The village choir had sung;  
Pastors, of glowing tongue,  
Had preached to old and young.

The hours had nearly run;  
Low sank the kindly sun;  
And waited, so ill to shun,  
Insects where shone the sun.

Then wandered I abroad,  
From temple of the Lord,  
From prayer and preached word,  
From songs of sweet accord.

Define the influence,  
That led me surely hence,  
O'er stream, and wall, and fence,  
Where birds their gifts dispense.

I saw the warm earth teem;  
The forest's shade and gleam;  
Pillars of moss and sun;  
Arches of joy and beam.

I heard from the roof and niche,  
The thrushes' matchless pitch,  
Poured forth on nature's stich,  
In late-notes soft and rich.

I bent upon my own,  
Where winds the wood's green lace,  
A captive to the strain  
The thrushes sang so plain.

And with bliss profound:  
True worship hath no bound;—  
'Tis in your temples found,  
And on this hallowed ground.

Waterville, May 1, 1859.

## HOW TO USE A HORSE.

It is not, after all, every one who owns a horse that knows how to use him, whether for his own pleasure or the horse's, which is, in other words, the owner's best advantage. Nor is it very easy to lay down rules how a horse should be used, considering the many different purposes for which horses are kept, the different natures and constitutions of the animals, and the different circumstances of their owners.

Horses may, in general, be divided into two classes—those kept for work, and those kept for pleasure. In the former class may be included farm-horses, stage, coach and omnibus horses, team-horses, employed in the transportation of goods, and moving heavy and bulky masses, carmen's horses, and lastly, the road horses of all professional men, who, like lawyers, doctors of medicine, and the like, are compelled to drive or ride many hours per diem, regularly, in the performance of their business.

In the latter class may be included race-horses, carriage-horses, or roadsters, and many other animals belonging to business men, which being employed during half the time or more in actual service, are used during spare hours on the road, for purposes of amusement.

With regard to the first class of these horses, the exigencies of the business to which they are applied are, for the most part, such as to supersede and override all rules. In some cases the natural hours of the day and night have to be reversed, and the animals are called upon to do their work by night, and to rest and feed by day. Under these circumstances, it may be laid down as an immutable law, that at whatever hour the horses are to be worked, they must have full time, beforehand, to digest their food and water; they must be carefully cleaned, and made comfortable; they must have sufficient intervals for halting and baiting, on the road, must be cleaned and well fed during the intervals of work, and must have ample time for undisturbed repose. The distance which horses in perfect condition can go upon the road, varies greatly with the powers of the animal, the degree of pains bestowed upon him, the skill of his driver, and the amount of his load, as well as the state of the roads. But it may be taken as a rule, that strong, able horses, of moderate speed, can travel forty miles a day, with a moderate load, not through mud, for many days in succession. It may be observed, that it is the better way to start at an easy pace when on a journey, to increase it slightly in the middle of the day, and again to relax it before coming in at night, in order to allow the animals to enter their stables cool, in good order, and ready, after a short rest, and cleaning, to feed with an appetite.

It may also be observed, in this point of view, that it is a mistake to fancy that horses are benefited by being driven or ridden very slowly when they have a long distance to perform. If a horse have to go over forty miles in a day, the road being good, the temperature of the day pleasant, and the load not excessive, he will do it with more ease and less inconvenience to himself, going at the rate of seven or eight miles the hour, and doing the whole distance in five or six hours, with a single stoppage in the middle of the day, to feed and rest, than if he be kept pattering along at the rate of four or five miles, and be kept out of his stable, hungry and thirsty, and leg-weary to boot, for a longer time.

Farm-horses, whose work is necessarily slow and continuous, lasting ordinarily from sunrise to sunset, with the exception of a mid-day halt for baiting, are under different circumstances. Their work being always slow, and rarely, if ever, severe, at the moment, or tollmore, from its long duration, they need not be subject to the same condition as fast-working horses, of being fatigued before they are put to work, and allowed to evacuate their bowels thoroughly before being harnessed. They may, therefore, be fed and watered at the last moment, and put to slow work immediately, and will rarely take harm from traveling on full stomachs. In the same manner, when they are loosed at noon-day, being rarely overheated, after a slight rest and a slight rubbing down—which, by the way, they rarely receive—they may take their mid-day feed without delay, and without fear of consequences. In the like manner may be treated carmen's horses, and team-horses, the labor of which is heavy and continuous rather than rapid. All horses, however, whatever the work to which they are applied, should have ample time to rest at night, and should be thoroughly rubbed down, dried, clothed and made comfortable, before feeding them and closing the stables for the night—and the more so, the more trying the day's work.

With regard to pleasure horses, which are usually in the stables, more or less, twenty hours out of every twenty-four, which are only taken

out for the gratification of the owner at such times as it suits his humor or necessity, they should never be taken out or driven fast on full stomachs; which can always be avoided by letting the groom know, in case that they will be required at an unusual hour or for unusual work—for unusual work—when he can adapt his feeding hours to the circumstances of the case.

When harnessed and ready for a start, the driver should mount his seat quietly, gather his reins, and get his horses under way, slowly but gradually, by speaking or chirruping to them; never starting them with a jerk, or striking them with a whip—allowing them to increase their pace by degrees to the speed required, instead of forcing it on a sudden.

It is far better for horses, to drive them steadily at a regular pace, even if it be ten or twelve miles an hour, than to send them along by fits and starts—now spinning them over the road at sixteen or eighteen miles, now plodding along at six or seven; and of two pairs of horses, driven the same distance, after the two different methods, that which is driven evenly will, at the end of the day, be comparatively fresh and comfortable, while the other will be jaded and worn out.

In regard to punishment, the less that is administered the better. A sluggish or lazy horse made, it is true, be kept up to his collar and must do his share of the work, or the free-goer will be worn out before the day is half done; and for this the whip must be occasionally used. Even good and free-going horses will occasionally be seized with fits of indolence, at moments, induced perhaps by the weather, and it may be necessary to stimulate them in such cases. Again at times when roads are bad, when time presses, and certain distances must be accomplished within certain times, recourse must be had to punishment; as it must occasionally, also, in cases where the animals are vicious or refractory, and where the master must show himself the master. Still, as a general rule, punishment should be the last resort. It should never be attempted with a tired, a jaded, or an exhausted horse; for to apply it in such cases is an utter barbarity; little or no immediate advantage is gained to the driver, while it may probably result in the loss of an excellent animal. It is common to see horses punished for stumbling, punished for starting; and whenever a new horse, which one may chance to be trying, starts off into a gallop after commencing either of these offences, one may be sure that he is an habitual starter or stumbler, and that he has frequently undergone chastisement for them, and undergone it in vain. It is altogether an error to punish for either starting or stumbling; the one is the effect of fear, which cannot be cured by the whip, the other, in most cases, of malformation or of tenderness in the foot, which certainly cannot be treated successfully by chastisement, which, in fact, aggravates and confirms, instead of alleviating or curing.

In speaking of driving at an equal pace, we would not, of course, be understood to mean that horses should be driven at the same gait and speed over all roads, and over grounds of all natures. Far from it. A good driver will, while going, always, at the rate of ten miles—we will say—an hour, never, perhaps, have his horses going at exactly the same rate for any two consecutive twenty minutes. Over a dead level, the hardest of all things except a long continuous ascent of miles, he will spare his horses. Over a rolling road, he will hold them hard in hand as he crosses the top and descends the first steep pitch of a descent; will swing them down the remainder at a pace which will jump them across the intervening flat and carry them half way up the succeeding hill; and will catch them in hand again and hold them hard over the top, as we have shown before.

Horses in work should be watered about once, with not to exceed two quarts, after every ten miles, or every hour, if they are traveling fast; and if traveling far, they should be well fed once in the middle of their journey. This point, however, has been discussed already under the head of feeding.

In closing, we would say, always remember, in using a horse, that it cannot be done with too much coolness, too much gentleness, too much discretion, or too much kindness. There is no better loss in the world than a horse, nor any one which, though often most cruelly misused by man, so well deserves, and so amply, by his services, repays the best usage.—Herbert's Hints to Horse-Keepers.

## ERADICATION OF THISTLES AND MUSTARD.

Canada thistles and mustard, are, in my opinion, two of the farmer's greatest enemies in the weed line. For when they once get fairly established in the soil, it requires a great deal of perseverance and energy to eradicate them, and even with these requisites but few persons succeed. I have known farmers to plow and mow the thistles for years in succession, and the weed still thrived and grew wonderfully, thicker if anything than when they began operations—the simple cause being that they did not get it in a proper manner. There is no doubt but what thistles can be destroyed by mowing. I entirely killed a patch of them once by mowing them for three seasons in succession, two or three times each season. Plowing I think, however, is more effective, as it causes all seeds which are in the soil to germinate. I do not approve, however, of the manner in which this is commonly done. Farmers usually, in attempting to destroy the thistle, commence plowing as soon as it makes its appearance above the surface, and continue plowing as often as it appears. This is in the spring, when the soil is wet and in growing order. The severed portion of the plant not only grows, sending up perhaps two or three new ones, but the root which remains in the ground, being young and tender, sprouts out, making two or three more new plants. My plan is to wait till the thistle is in blossom, which will be some time in June. The stock and root are then hollow. Begin plowing in a very dry time—a drouth if possible—plow deep and carefully. Be sure that you cut every root off. Then harrow once or twice. This will bring the thistles to the surface, where they will soon wilt and die. There will be but a few straggling thistles that will survive. Allow those to get ready for blossoming again, which will be some time in

August. Plow those again as before. Let your land lay till another season, and then summer-fallow for wheat. This, nine cases out of ten, will entirely destroy the thistle. If any comes up in the wheat, however, they should be carefully pulled out. This can be done in a wet time, with a common mitten on the hand.

The best plan that I know of for getting rid of mustard, is to plant corn for two or three seasons in succession, hating it carefully each season. If any mustard comes up after hoeing the last time, it should be carefully pulled out by hand, allowing no seed to ripen. Then summer fallow and sow to wheat, and seed down. Winter wheat is better than any other crop, as the mustard, if there is any left, will come up in the fall and winter-will. If any comes up in the spring, weed it out by hand. This course, if carefully followed, will use up mustard in a short time.—Correspondence Country Gentleman.

## PREMIUMS.

## YORK COUNTY AG. SOCIETY.

The annual Show and Fair of this Society will be held at Saco, October 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1859.

**PLOWING.**  
Double Teams—For best performance in plowing, at least 1-8th acre, not less than nine inches deep, \$5.00; 2-8th acre, 4.00; 3-8th acre, 3.00; 4-8th acre, 2.00; 5-8th acre, 1.00; 6-8th acre, 50¢; 7-8th acre, 25¢; 8-8th acre, 10¢; 9-8th acre, 5¢; 10-8th acre, 2¢; 11-8th acre, 1¢; 12-8th acre, 50¢; 13-8th acre, 25¢; 14-8th acre, 10¢; 15-8th acre, 5¢; 16-8th acre, 2¢; 17-8th acre, 1¢; 18-8th acre, 50¢; 19-8th acre, 25¢; 20-8th acre, 10¢; 21-8th acre, 5¢; 22-8th acre, 2¢; 23-8th acre, 1¢; 24-8th acre, 50¢; 25-8th acre, 25¢; 26-8th acre, 10¢; 27-8th acre, 5¢; 28-8th acre, 2¢; 29-8th acre, 1¢; 30-8th acre, 50¢; 31-8th acre, 25¢; 32-8th acre, 10¢; 33-8th acre, 5¢; 34-8th acre, 2¢; 35-8th acre, 1¢; 36-8th acre, 50¢; 37-8th acre, 25¢; 38-8th acre, 10¢; 39-8th acre, 5¢; 40-8th acre, 2¢; 41-8th acre, 1¢; 42-8th acre, 50¢; 43-8th acre, 25¢; 44-8th acre, 10¢; 45-8th acre, 5¢; 46-8th acre, 2¢; 47-8th acre, 1¢; 48-8th acre, 50¢; 49-8th acre, 25¢; 50-8th acre, 10¢; 51-8th acre, 5¢; 52-8th acre, 2¢; 53-8th acre, 1¢; 54-8th acre, 50¢; 55-8th acre, 25¢; 56-8th acre, 10¢; 57-8th acre, 5¢; 58-8th acre, 2¢; 59-8th acre, 1¢; 60-8th acre, 50¢; 61-8th acre, 25¢; 62-8th acre, 10¢; 63-8th acre, 5¢; 64-8th acre, 2¢; 65-8th acre, 1¢; 66-8th acre, 50¢; 67-8th acre, 25¢; 68-8th acre, 10¢; 69-8th acre, 5¢; 70-8th acre, 2¢; 71-8th acre, 1¢; 72-8th acre, 50¢; 73-8th acre, 25¢; 74-8th acre, 10¢; 75-8th acre, 5¢; 76-8th acre, 2¢; 77-8th acre, 1¢; 78-8th acre, 50¢; 79-8th acre, 25¢; 80-8th acre, 10¢; 81-8th acre, 5¢; 82-8th acre, 2¢; 83-8th acre, 1¢; 84-8th acre, 50¢; 85-8th acre, 25¢; 86-8th acre, 10¢; 87-8th acre, 5¢; 88-8th acre, 2¢; 89-8th acre, 1¢; 90-8th acre, 50¢; 91-8th acre, 25¢; 92-8th







THE MAIN

On the 14th the British Government had brought about the armistice. Another authority says that the British Government had brought about the armistice. Another authority says that the British Government had brought about the armistice.

At the recent commencement of Harvard College the degree of LL. D. was conferred on Charles Sumner, George B. Emerson, Henry W. Longfellow, and George F. Marsh.

In the case of Horace H. Day, Goodenry, recently tried in Baltimore, Mr. Day was declared to be the owner of an exclusive monopoly of elastic goods containing vulcanized rubber.

Letters from Mississippi and Louisiana, say the cotton crop will be a large one, and picking will commence very early.

In Louisiana, reliable parties who have visited the sugar cane region, state that the cane is now in flower in abundance last year at this time.

John Smith, a wealthy and influential man in Barre, Mass., committed suicide a few days since by hanging himself. The value of his property is estimated at from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

Most kinds of flour can now be bought in New York three dollars per barrel cheaper than during the first week of last April.

Why are you always looking into the glass? "Sir, the glasses I look into help me to improve my appearance; but you look into degrades yours!"

Caleb Cushing has been appointed by the committee of the Boston bar, to deliver the eulogy on the life and character of the late Rufus Choate.

The President has tendered the Central American mission to Hon. D. M. Barringer of North Carolina, formerly member of Congress, and subsequently Minister to Spain.

The Lawrence machine shop, 50 brick building, and other property originally costing a million of dollars were sold at auction last week for \$102,000.

An unofficial census of San Francisco makes the population 49,434 white males, 23,935 white females, 3150 Chinese, and 1905 colored people. Total, 78,983.

The Scientific American describes a new apparatus for copying photographs by which from one to four thousand copies can be taken in an hour.

Paul Morphy has determined to make New York his future residence, and to enter upon the practice of law.

The wife of Mr. Bailey, late proprietor of the National Era, announces that it will continue to be published by his family, and that it is their only available means of support.

The late Rufus Choate had his life insured for \$25,000.

All our friends, says Bulwer, desire our happiness; but then it must be in their own way; what a pity that they should employ the same means in making us happy in ours.

An English missionary, now in Sumatra, lately wrote home that he "had the melancholy satisfaction of examining the oven in which his predecessor was cooked."

FOREIGN NEWS

Stamps of Austria, from Liverpool, 9th, arrived July 21 at New York.

An armistice had been concluded with the Emperor of France and Austria, till the 15th August, and hopes of peace are entertained. The announcement caused a rise in all the money markets.

It is stated that the Emperor Napoleon is to issue a proclamation to the Hungarian nation, to be followed by one from the Emperor of Austria, arrived at the same time, and that the Emperor of Austria will then issue a proclamation to the Hungarian nation, to be followed by one from the Emperor of Austria, arrived at the same time.

The following is the text of the proclamation of Austria before the armistice was announced:

Turkey, July 7. The fortress of Peshawar now invested by the Sardinian army is cannonaded day and night with the use of gun boats, and the city is beleaguered on all sides.

Borneo, 15th. A steamer has been received from London to 6th inst. All the Austrian troops have left Wundschau and are concentrating on the St. Peter's Pass where the battle is expected to close.

Rome, July 6. Two French war steamers have been received from the Mediterranean, and are now in the harbor.

The correspondence with the Austrian army says that a bombardment of the city of Vienna has been commenced, and that the city is being shelled on all sides.

There are other reports of a great military quadrangle are much stronger than they were 10 days ago. There are great field works to be taken before any approach can be made to the city.

The Austrian army may have got together again an array capable of risking another general action at Vienna.

Quantities of grain are stored in every available place and 35,000 Hungarian acres are either there or in the immediate neighborhood.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Times says, on the 3d inst., the French fleet, consisting of 64 sail, was not great distance from the British fleet.

The Vienna Gazette publishes an amended list of the losses at Solferino. As to officers, the returns give 90 killed and 414 wounded. As to men, the returns give 14,213 missing; of rank and file 2500 killed and 8621 wounded—making a grand total of 14,213.

Noting is said respecting the number of men taken prisoners. The French had 10,000 men taken prisoners. The French had 10,000 men taken prisoners.

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FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

AUGUSTA PRICES CURRENT.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes items like Flour, Corn, Wheat, and various oils.

HANNIBAL AND ST. JOSEPH RAILROAD LANDS.

For SALE ON LONG CREDIT AND AT LOW RATE OF INTEREST! The Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company have...

NEW READY.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF NEW ENGLAND. Volume One, 1050 Pages. Published by ALLEN & CO.

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GENERAL. BUCCEPHALUS AND SHARON. The Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company have...

STEAMER FOR BOSTON.

THE EASTERN QUEEN. JAMES COLLINS, Master. Will run between Portland and Boston...

BRIGHTON MARKET.

At market, 1200 boxes, 2000 bushels, 5000 barrels. Prices for various goods and commodities.

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## The Muse.

## A LAY OF REAL LIFE.

BY T. MOON.

Who ruined me was I, born,  
Sold every grain, or corn,  
And left the rest all forlorn?

My Grandmother.

Who said my mother was no more,  
And physics me a cure was worse,  
Till illness became a curse?

My Grandmother.

Who let me in my seventh year,  
A comfort to my mother dear,  
And Mr. Pope, the overseer?

My Father.

Who let me starve to buy her gin,  
Till all my bones came to my skin,  
Then called me "ugly little son?"

My Mother.

Who said my mother was a Turk,  
And took me home and made me work,  
But managed half my meals to shirk?

My Aunt.

Who "of all earthly things" would boast,  
"He hated others' brains the most,"  
And therefore made me feel my post?

My Uncle.

Who got in scrapes, an endless crew,  
And always laid them at my door,  
Till many a bitter pang I knew?

My Cousin.

Who took me home when mother died,  
Again with father to reside,  
Black shoes, clean knives, run and wide?

My Stepmother.

Who married my wealthy uncle John,  
And when I played cried "noise!"  
Girls always better over boys?

My Sister.

Who used to share in what was mine,  
Or took it all, and did decline,  
"Cause I was right and he was nine?"

My Brother.

Who stroked my head, and said, "Good lad,"  
And gave me sixpence, "he had had,"  
And at the stall the coin was paid?

My Godfather.

Who, gratis, shared my social glass,  
And when misfortune came to pass,  
Referred me to the pump?

My Friend.

Through all this weary world, in brief,  
Who ever sympathized with grief,  
Or shared my joy—my joy—my grief?

Myself.

## The Story Teller.

## THE WIFE'S ERROR.

"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth."

"And now, my dear, we will have no secrets from each other. You shall tell me all you think and feel, and I will always consult with you about my plans and prospects."

"But I never had any secrets, James."

"I know, Addy, you are candid itself." And the young husband parted back the soft brown hair, and looked all his admiration of the girl-wife he had chosen to share his home. "I do not know but you will think me very old-fashioned in my notions, but I have always had very peculiar ones with regard to the relationship of husband and wife. Doesn't that sound strangely—speaking of ourselves?" They both smiled; for it was but a week since they had taken the solemn vows—binding even unto death; and those homely but endearing household words were still strange to them. Perhaps the young bride drew up her tall, slender figure a little, and assumed an air of greater gravity; and certain it was that the light in her husband's eyes grew deeper and more tender, as he said again:

"Yes, you are my wife, Addy, and it means so much—so much of love, and trust, and confidence; man that I am, I have always longed for some one to love me, that I could talk my very self out to, without the fear of being misunderstood, or having my confidence betrayed. But I can tell you everything, Addy; can't I?"

"But our readers must know for themselves, and if they do not, we leave to their vivid imaginations the many protestations of mutual love, and confidence, and happiness, which followed this grave and sensible exchange of married life. Just-married lovers are the same, we believe, all the world over; each thinking him or herself, for a few weeks at least, the most blessed and peculiarly happy among men or women. How it ever came to pass that the most perfect members of the other sex, in the sphere of their acquaintance, ever changed to be interested in them—any, to love them, and turn away from every one else for their love—is a wonderful and continued mystery; at least until they begin to see that Eve has a very decided way of her own, and will put it if she is thwarted; and Adam has a most provoking amount of obstinacy and capriciousness about the merest trifles; and, having had their eyes opened by this bitter fruit of domestic life, they pride in hand, love their Eden, and the angel of pride and jealousy guards henceforth its entrance.

James Leslie had longed—years for a home; just such a home as his promised to be—quiet and cheerful, neither fashionably nor meanly furnished, with a wife fully competent to attend to every detail of the domestic economy, and, apparently, with the one sole object in life of making him happy. He thought of it all day at the counting-house, his here, dusty walls fading into the waking dream, and the blank windows, curtained and softened by the magical light, as those on which he looked at even-time. And when night came, and the ledger was closed, and the key turned, there were no lingering steps on that long but always pleasant walk; for he knew he was awaited impatiently, where all had been made bright and tidy for his coming. The slippers and the easy-chair, the evening paper and the tea-table; then the most pleasant hour of all, when they were by themselves—quite alone, and Addy sewed or knitted by the cheerful-looking round table, and there reviewed for each other the little events of the day. James could not yet gain the habit of leaving business behind him. He had no partner to talk over matters with, and as every thing was flourishing, he liked to dilate on the success of a business he had built up by his own unaided energy, and to plan schemes for the future. Of course, all these things could scarcely be understood by his wife, but she did not interrupt him by questions betraying her ignorance, and he liked to talk on as to a second self; for, as he often said, some bright idea was sure to strike him when going over matters, and it was a relief to his somewhat overtaxed brain. Besides, he was conscientious to his own principles in no doing. He had often heard wives blamed for extravagance, when he was sure they did not know anything about their husband's affairs; or he had seen them reduced suddenly to utter want, with no preparation, by the death of the head of the household, and he had long ago resolved, if he ever married, his wife should not suffer from either of these causes.

Addy, on her part, had always some amusing adventure to relate. Something must be made even of the cook's little delinquencies, or the chambermaid's confidence of an affair of care to her young mistress. Then, sometimes, the wrong marketing had come home—beef and poultry enough for a boarding-house, instead of her own little table; or she had been shopping, and a pretty new dress was held up in the best light for discussion and approval. She never had the least of a secret from him, nor, unfortunately, from any one else. She had never in her life designedly

## THE MAINE FARMER: AN

## A LAY OF REAL LIFE.

## BY T. MOON.

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Who said my mother was no more,  
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Through all this weary world, in brief,  
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## THE WIFE'S ERROR.

"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth."

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